



The Voter

January 2017

League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area

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January Meetings

Overview on Minimum Wage Controversy To Be Presented at Topical Tuesday Meeting

Andrea Schneider, a lecturer in economics at Bowling Green State University, will provide an overview of the economic concepts involved in understanding the minimum wage controversy along with the pros and cons of changing the minimum wage at our Tuesday, January 10, meeting.

This meeting will be held at Way Public Library at 7 p.m. It will be a Topical Tuesday presentation, co-sponsored by the Perrysburg League with the library.

Ms. Schneider has a Bachelor of Arts in economics from Miami University and a Master of Arts degree in economics from BGSU. She has taught at BGSU since 2000. Ms. Schneider has been awarded the Undergraduate Student Government Faculty Excellence Award and the College of Business Administration Alumni Undergraduate Teaching Award.

This meeting is open to the public. Refreshments will be served.



Andrea Schneider

Don't Forget the Program Planning Meeting on January 17

Tuesday, January 17, at noon in the Lower Level Meeting Rooms at Way Library we will hold our annual Program Planning Meeting. It will be for members only and will include a soup and salad plus light dessert buffet prepared by our very own board members.

You might ask what is a League Program Planning Meeting? The answer is it is the one time of the year that we look at the program or mission that we locally have voted on and the areas we have decided to concentrate our time and efforts.

The program can be found in the front of your Membership Directory. Please bring that with you when you come to the meeting. We will discuss and make suggestions to the new Program Chair (who will be elected in May 2017) and her committee for next year.

At this meeting we will also be answering the *LWVO Primary Election Systems Study Consensus Questions*, which we have recently received and are due back by January 31. The questions and a helpful study guide are available at <http://www.lwvohio.org/site.cfm/Member-Area/League-Studies.cfm>

Please add the following new member to your directory:

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And please welcome Carol to the League when you meet her.



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Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Web Site

**www.perrysburg.
oh.lwvnet.org**

President's Letter

Dear League Members,

Everyone seems to be talking or writing about “the way we were in 2016.” Here is a condensed version of some of what I have heard or read. See if you agree with the “experts.”

Associated Press says that 64% are happy with their financial situation and 84% are happy with their friends and family. Yet, Monmouth University reported that 70% thought that the election brought out the worst in people. Whom do we blame for America’s problems? Harris says that 82% say that the people running the country do not care about ordinary Americans, and Gallop Polls say that 76% of Americans have an unfavorable opinion of Congress.

Moving on to something a little brighter, *Parade Magazine* tells us what to eat in 2017. These are the healthy food trends for the coming year: Chickpeas, Tumeric, Beets, Maca (a Peruvian root vegetable), Sorgum, and Sauerkraut! I wonder about that last one!

Locally, we finally finished the 475/ 75 construction and two roundabouts. Now in 2017 we await the construction of the “Divergent Diamond,” which will help move traffic safely around the intersection of 25 and 475. Of course, it will be a hassle until it is finished, but with all the growth around Levis Commons and Roachton Road, something had to be done.

I personally look forward to being the President of the League of Women Voters in 2017 and working with the Board and all of our members. I hope to see many of you at our meetings

Nancy Kelley



Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, Jan. 10 — 7 p.m.
Economic Ramifications in Raising Minimum Wage.

Andrea Schneider, Dept. of Economics, BGSU

Tuesday, Jan. 17 — Noon
Annual Program Meeting.
Luncheon

Tuesday, Feb. 28 — 7 p.m.
Lucas County Land Bank. David Mann

Tuesday, March (TBA) — 7 p.m.
Refugee Resettlement in Toledo Area.

Sunday, March 26 — 2 p.m.
Stranahan Award. 577 Foundation

Tuesday, April 25 — 7 p.m.
Perspectives on Declaring Lake Erie "Impaired." Karl Gebhardt, Ohio EPA

Tuesday, May 9 — TBA

Tuesday, May 23 — 11 a.m.
Annual Meeting. Noon Luncheon. Speaker TBA

** All programs will be at Way Library, unless otherwise noted.*

Members Meeting to Discuss LWVO 2017-19 State Program

On Wednesday, February 1, our usual League Board meeting will be expanded one hour to allow all our members to participate in the state League program planning.

The meeting will be held at Way library at 4:45 p.m. We will spend approximately 15 minutes on board business and then discuss the current state League positions.

WE NEED MEMBERS TO ATTEND!

Program planning is our opportunity as LWVO members to make our voices heard. Just as we will help to plan our local program on January 17, we also have an opportunity to review existing state League positions and select issues upon which the League will spend time, talent, energy and money. **Local and state Leagues may choose to make no recommendations regarding possible new or updated positions, but also have the option to propose one new study, one review/update of an existing position and one concurrence. Dropping an option is also a choice.**

Based on local League responses, which are due February 24, a proposed program will be developed by the LWVO Board of Directors. At convention, recommended and non-recommended items will be discussed and debated. Delegates will then adopt the 2017-2019 state program.

The state League positions, which fall under the broad headings of government, social policy and natural resources, have been divided among our Board members. They will have read and studied the materials to help us make decisions. If you would like to review this material before the meeting, go to lwvohio.org/site.cfm/Advocacy/LWVO-Positions.cfm

Light refreshments will be served. Please try to attend this important meeting.

Natural Resources Report

By Sue Hoffman, Natural Resources Co-Chair

Happy New Year! One of the things we all love to do is make resolutions for the new year. As you do so, please consider ways to conserve and protect our water. Here are a few things to consider.

1. Check household faucets for leaks. A slow drip, about 15 drips per minute, would add up to three gallons of wasted water per day, 65 gallons a month or 788 gallons per year.
2. Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator so you do not have to run the faucet to get cold water.
3. Try to flush the toilet less. Also, be sure there is no leak in the toilet. Consider an ultra-low flush toilet, which uses only about 1.5 gallons per flush.
4. Run your dishwasher only when it is full.
5. Brush teeth and shave turning water on and off. This will save water.
6. Put a waste basket in the bathroom to throw tissues into rather than flushing them down the toilet.
7. If we used one less gallon of water a day while showering, we could save some 85 billion gallons per year. Keep the shower pressure lower or take a shorter shower. Surely, we all can do one or more of these.

(Materials from harwichwater.com and Fairfax Water Authority)

November and December 2016 Observer Reports

Perrysburg City Council Meeting November 1, 2016

- Passed ordinances authorizing the Director of Finance to solicit bids for the City's depository banking services; approved code amendment regarding accessory buildings and another code amendment regarding fitness related businesses. (Ordinances 96-2016, 97-2016 and 98-2016.)

Perrysburg City Council Meeting November 15, 2016

During the Citizens Concerns portion of the Council Meeting, this issue was raised:

- Citizens living along Fort Meigs Road between River Road and Fort Meigs Elementary School spoke about the City's cleaning of the ditch that runs along the Fort Meigs Road. City workers removed trees and brush from the bottom and east side of the ditch. The citizens thought they should have been notified prior to the project. When they approached the city workers doing the work and asked them to stop and contact City supervisors before continuing, the citizens felt they were not treated respectfully. When citizens did reach City supervisors, they felt they were not taken seriously. The project had not been brought to council for approval as the dollar limit did not warrant the approval. The project is similar to other waterway cleaning projects the City has completed and was deemed necessary by the City to prevent flooding in other areas where the ditch flows. City Council approved a motion to halt current tree removal and to not begin Phases 2 and 3 of the project until council reviews the situation.

Remainder of Council Agenda:

- Another reading Ordinance 99-2016, the proposed legislation prohibiting smoking in communal locations within city parks including athletic fields, shelters, picnic areas and playground areas.

Perrysburg City Council Meeting December 6, 2016

- The ditch cleaning along Fort Meigs Road was discussed (see 11/15/16 notes above.) It was confirmed that all issues related to this project will be referred to the Health, Sanitation and Public Utilities committee so there will be one focal point and easier for citizens to know who to contact. President of Council asked again that the city not doing anything further with this project until Council has had time to understand the entire issue. The Mayor confirmed the City is waiting to hear from Council before taking any more steps.
- First reading of Ordinance 100-2016: the 2017 Budget. There was discussion that perhaps 2017 is the year to take a serious look at funding either bike paths and/or multi-use paths. It was discussed that rather than changing the 2017 Budget at this time, perhaps a budget amendment at a later date would be more practical once some actual dollar values were available.
- Passed Ordinance 103-2016 authorizing purchase of a Municipal Dump Truck for a price not to exceed \$120,342.87. The current dump truck was purchased in 2005. The new truck was included in the 2016 budget.

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November/December Observer Reports

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- Passed the non-binding Resolution 18-2016 in support of the concept of a regional water system. The Resolution, in part, states: *We support the ongoing TMACOG study of a regional bulk water supply system water intakes, treatment plant and delivery; and support establishment of a regional bulk water system founded as a cooperative partnership that gives all participating jurisdictions a meaningful, governing voice in its operation and rates.*
- Another reading Ordinance 99-2016, the proposed legislation prohibiting smoking in communal locations within city parks including athletic fields, shelters, picnic areas and playground areas. There was discussion among the Council as to the logistics of enforcing such legislation, the need for such legislation and the idea that our parks are for everyone – smokers and non-smokers – to enjoy.
- Passed a number of ordinances and resolutions authorizing renewal of agreement with Modern Disposal for removal of residential yard waste; approving job description for part-time firefighter and updating code for said position; and, approving the Draft Adopted Amended Wood County Solid Waste Management Plan; (Ordinances 101-2016, 102-2016 and Resolution 19-2016.)

Perrysburg City Council Meeting December 20, 2016

During the Citizens Concerns portion of the Council Meeting, this issue was raised:

- A citizen told Council that for about two years he has brought issues to the attention of the City pertaining to his neighbor's property including property grading that was thought to be in violation of city code and operating an industrial-type business from his home. He said that each time he brought issues to the City, they claimed there was nothing they could do. The citizen has gone to Wood County and they were able to provide some assistance. He provided documentation to Council and to the Mayor. The Mayor said the documentation would be reviewed.

Remainder of Council Agenda:

- Passed Ordinance 100-2016 approving the 2017 Budget.
- Passed Ordinances 104-2016, 105-2016 and 106-2016 all making adjustments to the 2016 Budget.
- Rejected Ordinance 99-2016 that would have limited smoking in City Parks.
- Passed Ordinances authorizing Huntington National Bank as the depository for city funds and renewing the contract with NFP Benefits Administrators as the city's health insurance administrator. (Ordinances 107-2016 and 108-2016.)

Debra Greenley Gorman
Observer